

**Fully Maintain the A-10 Thunderbolt II (Warthog)
Resolution 18-04**

WHEREAS, the A-10 provides critical close-air support to U.S. ground troops to combat terrorism by dropping 13,856 munitions between 2014-2017, ranking second in aircraft support; and

WHEREAS, the A-10 is less expensive than other aircraft; the reimbursable cost per flying hour for the A-10 is \$5,766, the F-15E is \$21,301, the F-35 is \$33,538 and the B-1 is \$39,139; and https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/rates/fy2016/2016_f_h.pdf

WHEREAS, Congress since 2015 “. . . continues to believe that sustainment of the 281- aircraft A-10 fleet helps to meet Air Force fighter aircraft capacity requirements” which is why they have added or restricted reduction of funds, so the AF can maintain and upgrade the A-10; and

WHEREAS, “The Thunderbolt II can employ a wide variety of conventional munitions, including general purpose bombs, cluster bomb units, laser guided bombs, joint direct attack munitions or JDAM, wind corrected munitions dispenser or WCMD, AGM-65 Maverick and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, rockets, illumination flares, and the GAU-8/A 30mm cannon, capable of firing 3,900 rounds per minute to defeat a wide variety of targets including tanks.”; and <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/104490/a-10-thunderbolt-ii/>

WHEREAS, the Afghanistan government requested A-10 in-country assets and DoD on 23 Jan 2018 announced, “. . . the A-10’s return to Afghanistan supports the increased need for close air support and precision strike capacity for a variety of efforts, including the strategic air campaign targeting Taliban revenue sources and counter- terrorism operations that continue to take place,”;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ROA, chartered by Congress, recommend to Congress and the Air Force that the current A-10 fleet be fully maintained with new wings and all other needed and appropriate upgrades to maintain the current and future A-10 fleet combat capability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ROA, recommend the Air Force not proceed with any A-10 fleet reductions, until critically and fully analyzing results of the proposed comparative testing of the A-10 against the F-35 or other proposed replacement aircraft for close air support operations.

Adopted by the National Convention, 30 Sep 2018
Source: Department of Missouri, 29 Apr 2018